

# REACH



A publication of the U.S. Department of Energy for all Hanford Site employees

## Fluor, DOE meet PFP tank milestone

Jean McKenna, FH

On May 23, Fluor Hanford submitted its recommendation to the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) for the regulatory “path forward” for remediation of plutonium-bearing sludge now in the bottom of Tank 241-Z-361 at the Plutonium Finishing Plant.

Submitted with Fluor Hanford's recommendation were complete data packages including validation of selected data for two core samples collected from the tank in 1999. DOE-RL submitted the package to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on May 31, completing Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-15-37B on schedule. EPA will ultimately make the decision for the regulatory path to be pursued. Fluor reviewed the three potential regulatory paths available under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) for the remediation of the tank.

Fluor Hanford project manager, Keith Hampton said project personnel asked the basic questions, “Is the situation in the tank urgent enough to require immediate action or can the work be done as soon as practicable?” — and, “If nothing needs to be done for awhile, can we piggyback with other remediation projects in 200 West”?

### The recommendation

After extensive characterization and analysis, DOE-RL and Fluor Hanford have recommended a non-time-critical removal action rather than either the interim remedial action or deferred disposition. This allows for integration with overall PFP transition activities on a risk-prioritized basis.

“Overall, it appears that a non-time-critical removal action is appropriate and would be the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars,” said Pete Knollmeyer, DOE-RL assistant manager for



A Lockheed Martin Hanford (now CH2M HILL Hanford Group) team of workers completes installation of a glovebag and filter assembly in preparation for opening of Tank 241-Z-361. Left to right are Vern Matthews (left), Bob Campbell (in back) and Jesse Perez.

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## Fluor, DOE meet PFP tank milestone, cont.

Nuclear Material Stabilization. "Tank 241-Z-361 field activities would likely be scheduled after the most urgent plutonium stabilization work has been completed. Conducting tank remediation as stabilization is ramping down makes the best use of PFP infrastructure and expertise while it's available."

The 45,000-gallon underground tank is located within the PFP complex. The tank received diluted liquid effluents discharged from PFP processes from 1949 until 1973, when it was taken out of service. Most of the remaining liquids were pumped from the tank and the pipes were cut and capped in 1975. Approximately 7 feet — 20,000 gallons — of plutonium-bearing sludge remains in the bottom.

Even though Tank 241-Z-361 had been shut down for years, it was included in a 1997 site-wide survey of potential chemical and radiological vulnerabilities after a tank explosion in the Plutonium Reclamation Facility. An Unreviewed Safety Question for Z-361 was declared in October 1997, identifying potential hazards in the form of structural integrity, flammable gases, plutonium solubility and criticality.

Although the potential for criticality or tank cave-in was considered remote, there was a concern that hydrogen gas could have been building up over the past 24 years, creating a flammable gas hazard.

Planning for tank characterization wasn't easy because of all the unknowns. First the PFP team researched all available records for information. Further research included interviews with 30 former PFP employees who had worked with Tank 241-Z-361.

## Complex job

Over the past two years, the following work was performed:

- A weighted robot and other equipment was used to perform load-testing to make sure people and equipment could work safely over the tank without it collapsing. The roof was successfully tested for 4,000 pounds, but the weight has been limited to a conservative 2,000 pounds.
- On May 12, 1999, the sealed tank was successfully opened, a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA)-filtered vent was installed to monitor for combustible vapors, and a vapor sample was collected for analysis. Because flammable gases had been expected to be found, spark-free tools and techniques were used by an experienced team

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## Fluor, DOE meet PFP tank milestone, cont.

from what was then Lockheed Martin Hanford. The team did not detect any unusual tank pressure, flammable gases or organic vapors.

- To inspect the inside of the tank in May 1999, a video camera was inserted through a riser in a 4-foot plug near the center, and the team members found about what they expected. The concrete tank is still in good shape, but the steel liner has corroded where it came in contact with the waste. The video did show a couple of surprises. There were five pipes inside the tank that can't be seen from the outside, extending from the riser openings in the tank roof all the way to the bottom. These were most likely used earlier for nondestructive testing. The other surprise was finding cracks in the roof of the tank that clearly have been there a long time. This confirmed the wisdom of the load-testing decision.

- For the actual core sampling, a bridge was built over the tank to support the sampling truck. To further guard against putting pressure on the tank, helical or corkscrew-shaped piers were screwed into the ground near the tank to support the bridge, rather than conventional pilings. Two full-depth sludge core samples were collected from the tank and sent to the 222-S Laboratory in September 1999 for detailed chemical analysis. Additional tank headspace vapor samples were also collected to evaluate the potential for re-releasing volatile compounds when the sludge was disturbed.

- Finally, nondestructive testing was performed by a Waste Management Technical Services team using two of the existing aluminum dry wells in the tank. This provided additional information on the concentration and distribution of plutonium and moisture in the tank.

Now that the potential threats posed by Tank 241-Z-361 have been systematically analyzed, results show the threat of release from the tank is not as serious as was postulated when the Unreviewed Safety Question was declared in 1997.



**To keep the weight directly over the tank under 2,000 pounds, a bridge was built to support the weight of the sampling truck.**

## Findings look good

The new data indicate:

- There are about 25 kilograms of plutonium 239 and about 4 kg of other fissile isotopes in the tank. Comparison of the new data to that from previous criticality studies indicates that criticality is extremely unlikely with this low level of fissile material.
- Tank headspace sampling indicates that flammable gas concentrations are far below the lower flammability limit.
- As to the structural integrity of the tank, analysis indicates that failure is not imminent, and controls are in place to prevent applying loads that might further compromise the structural integrity of the tank.

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## Fluor, DOE meet PFP tank milestone, cont.

- The pH of the sludge is within the range at which plutonium is the least soluble. Core samples taken from the tank show the material to be highly viscous with little free liquid — the consistency of toothpaste — limiting mobility of the plutonium.
- Although the possibility of leakage in the past cannot be ruled out, the tank contents are at about the same level as they were in photographs taken in the mid-1980s. There is no evidence of tank leaks. The helical piers were installed in 1999 to support the bridge for the sampling truck. The piers extended beneath the depth of the tank within a few feet of it. When some had to be removed and reinstalled, they were surveyed as they were being removed, and no radiological contamination was detected.
- There are only very low concentrations of potentially hazardous materials such as ammonia, organics and nitrates.

With Tank 241-Z-361-characterization work completed, the project is moving toward selecting a remediation option. Depending on the regulatory path decided upon by EPA, the next phase of the project will be either an engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) for a non-time-critical removal action, or a focused feasibility study (FFS) for an interim remedial action. The processes and technology to be used to remediate the sludge will be selected during this next phase. ♦



To inspect the tank ceiling, a video camera was inserted through a riser in a 4-foot plug near the tank's center.

## Oops

An article, “Repro Services up to date” (*Hanford Reach*, May 15), and a letter written in response, “Printing requirements” (*Hanford Reach*, May 30) have raised questions about the policies for printing and duplicating for government-funded programs.

To clarify the policies for printing and duplicating requirements, DynCorp Tri-Cities Services, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Bechtel Hanford, Inc. have collectively stated that paper reproduction paid for with government-appropriated funds must go through the following channels:

- All Bechtel Hanford personnel, subcontractors of BHI and Department of Energy programs specific to BHI must go through BHI’s approved Government Printing Office processes for their printing and duplicating requirements.
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory printing and duplicating requirements must go through PNNL Duplicating.
- The contractors and subcontractors of the Fluor Hanford team, affiliate companies and the remainder of DOE must go through the DynCorp Tri-Cities Services Hanford Site government print shop or satellite duplicating centers.

Because of federal law, it is a mandatory requirement that all site contractors and personnel use the appropriate avenues listed above.

For more information, contact these contractor representatives:

PHMC — Linda Perkins at 376-2707 or Ann Olive at 376-4887

BHI — Linda Hermann at 375-9422 or Chris Forbes at 372-9007

PNNL — Laura Sleater or Stan Kophs at 375-3720.

# Fluor, Battelle pen intellectual property agreement

## PNNL to provide a range of services

Through the new agreement with Fluor Hanford, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory will be providing the following intellectual property services to employees of the Fluor Hanford project team:

- Making invention reports available to staff members so they can record and report their inventions
- Processing the reports and placing them on a docket
- Having inventions reviewed by the PNNL Commercialization staff to determine commercial potential
- Providing the appropriate protection of intellectual property rights, and proceeding with patenting where appropriate
- Working toward taking the product to market (commercialization), usually through licensing the invention to an outside business (but perhaps supporting the creation of a new business) singly or as part of a package of related inventions. This includes negotiations with the outside business and the legal documents creating the licensor/licensee relationship.
- Receiving license income and determining the inventor's share under his or her employment agreement.

Do you have a good idea or an invention you want to patent and commercialize, but don't know where to start?

Capturing the good ideas, determining their commercial potential and getting the technologies marketed and sold are among the services Pacific Northwest National Laboratory is providing to employees of the Fluor Hanford team as part of the technology-management function recently assigned to PNNL through a signed memorandum of agreement.

"We believe that this agreement will increase the visibility and the successful commercialization of intellectual property at Fluor," said Doug Bragg of the Fluor Hanford Economic Transition Office.

Because its focus has been on cleanup of the site rather than research, Fluor Hanford considers PNNL to be more adept at technology transfer work. PNNL has been involved in the patenting and commercialization of intellectual property for years and can provide the full range of services to Fluor.

"PNNL has maintained the capability to procure intellectual property protection on inventions and market and license these inventions," said PNNL's Dave Long, who is managing technology commercialization tasks. "We have procedures in place to account for expenses incurred as well as administrative procedures to track the inventions and licenses throughout their lifetime. It makes economic sense for Fluor to use our capabilities to do what they would otherwise have to build from the ground up."

Besides providing administrative services, PNNL will work with Fluor to raise employee awareness about the basics of intellectual property generation, protection and commercialization, and the processes that PNNL uses to make that happen.

"We will be putting together a team of experts such as patent agents, commercialization managers and licensing associates who will go out to speak to employees about what a patent is, how to file an invention report, commercialization, licensing and legal issues," Long said. "We would like to encourage PHMC employees to use PNNL's services to successfully commercialize technology arising at the Hanford Site. There are a lot of good ideas out there that, if commercialized, could produce a lot of social benefit as well as a good return on investment for the government."

And good ideas will be rewarded. "Fluor has a reward and recognition program that monetarily rewards employees for successful inventions," Bragg said.

Other good ideas have turned into new business ventures for employees of the Fluor Hanford project team. Ideas brought forth by employees have resulted in five new businesses created with Fluor's assistance.

If you have questions about the new service and how you can tap into it, contact Long at 372-6308 or via e-mail. ♦

# RV manufacturer brings in 200 jobs

LaMarr Motor Coach, Inc., a manufacturer of luxury recreational vehicles, announced last week that it will initiate full operations in a new location in Pasco, with startup of production scheduled for sometime this fall. A second line of motor coaches will begin production within 18 months. The company expects the plant to employ as many as 200 workers by fiscal year 2002, with average wages around \$10 an hour.

The multi-million-dollar operation will start production with financing from the Hanford Area Economic Investment Fund Committee and equity capital from the Tri-Cities Enterprise Association and Fluor Hanford. The Tri-City Industrial Development Council, Fluor Hanford, DynCorp Tri-Cities and the Department of Energy are providing support by supplying more than \$100,000 worth of excess Hanford equipment.

To make its high-end “fifth wheel” recreational vehicles, LaMarr uses a patentable technology for a ground-leveling chassis as well as unique wrap-around fiberglass shell construction.

Stuart LaMarr, president of LaMarr Motor Coach, said the effort put forth by the local leaders drew his company to the Tri-Cities. “We were really impressed with the extent people went to make this work,” he said. “I really want to thank the Hanford Area Economic Investment Fund Committee for providing \$750,000 in fast-track low-rate financing, and the contributions of the local governments, the Tri-Cities Enterprise Association, Fluor Hanford, the Department of Energy, and the Tri-City Industrial Development Council. After the red carpet treatment we were given, and seeing what the location had to offer, there was no way we could have settled anywhere else.”

TRIDEC Chairman John Neill is enthusiastic about the company’s decision and how it came about. Like some other companies, LaMarr was initially attracted by the industrial building that Fluor Hanford is financing in the Pasco Processing Center. “This is a model for the future,” Neill said. “With the help of Fluor Hanford’s new building, we have been able to draw increasing numbers of prospective businesses in to look at what we have to offer. This is an example of one of those businesses.”

Although a suitable tenant has yet to be found for the Pasco Processing Center building, companies that have come to check it out have liked other aspects of the Tri-Cities business climate. “So, in our minds, the building is already a success,” said Port of Pasco Commissioner Ernie Boston. ♦



**Stuart LaMarr, president of LaMarr Motor Coach, poses with two huge blowers that were part of the Hanford excess equipment that helped to attract his company to the Tri-Cities.**

# WRAP safely dealing with modified standards

Connie Eckard, FH

The Waste Receiving and Processing Facility will be the center of attention when transuranic waste is finally shipped from the Hanford Site for permanent disposal.

That first shipment represents a major milestone for Fluor Hanford, for the Department of Energy and for the Hanford Site. WRAP is part of the Waste Management Project which has passed certification audits in preparation for shipping transuranic waste to New Mexico. But before the shipments can begin, the New Mexico Environment Department must approve the audit report submitted by the Department of Energy Carlsbad Area Office.

Ever since the facility was accepted for operations, WRAP employees have dealt with continuous modifications that frustrated them as they remotely examined and analyzed the contents of drums of waste. But, during that time, they have been doing their work safely. On May 23, facility employees celebrated four years without a lost time accident.

"Four years without a lost-time accident is quite impressive and a real indication that the people at WRAP take their responsibility quite seriously," said Beth Bilson, assistant manager of Environment Restoration and Waste Management for the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office.

"We've come a long way for a brand new facility," said Tim Callaway, who chairs the employee safety council at WRAP. "First of all, we're blessed with an outstanding crew and that includes the union folks on up. Second, Waste Management Hanford has initiated and supported new programs that keep up our safety awareness.

"We've had to overcome some unique technical and mechanical problems just to be operational," said Callaway, pointing out that safety has always been one of their top priorities. "Safety goes hand-in-hand with getting our work done."

Bob Bloom, the facility manager at WRAP, added that the workforce there has a lot of experience from other Hanford facilities. "There are very knowledgeable people in all of our disciplines," Bloom said, including the employees in operations, maintenance, radiological control and support activities.

Bloom also mentioned the significant modifications that have taken place since the facility was turned over to operations four years ago. "The people here have been very creative in overcoming mechanical problems," he said.

"The TRU waste program has presented the people at WRAP with one challenge after another," said Bilson. "They've had to deal with moving standards. It's been sort of like climbing in a mountain range. You get to the top of a mountain and there's another peak out in front of you.

"WRAP is integral to getting waste out of the state of Washington," said Bilson, in acknowledging the four safe years of focused efforts. ♦



**Bob Bloom, left, and Tim Callaway pause during a celebration of four years without a lost-time accident at the Waste Receiving and Processing Facility. Bloom is facility manager and Callaway chairs the employee safety council.**



# Digital photography enhances BHI's radcon program

Steve Sautter, BHI

What do photography and radiological protection have in common? They go hand-in-hand at several Environmental Restoration Contract projects led by Bechtel Hanford, Inc., to help employees get a good "picture" of the radiation and contamination levels in their work areas.

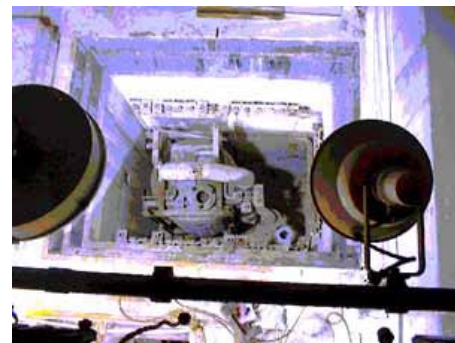
This innovative approach uses digital photos of work areas. It is being implemented to replace the standard hand-drawn maps with digital photos at the 233-S Plutonium Concentration Facility Decommissioning Project and the Surveillance/Maintenance and Surveillance Projects.

"The use of photos in our radiological survey program assists us in all aspects of performing radiological work," said Allen Nellesen, senior health physicist for BHI. "We can now provide our planning personnel and work crews with a very accurate and realistic view of the radiological conditions that will be encountered."

The digital photographs are tailored to meet the information needs of the employees. The photos can be as general as a large workspace or as specific as an individual piece of equipment. Radiological protection personnel insert the photos into a radiological survey form. Radiation and contamination levels are then superimposed on the photo.

Survey forms with photos provide a much better picture of the work area and become an integral part of the process of job preparation. "This is similar to the use of mock-ups of actual job sites to help employees become familiar with the work they are about to do," said Kevin Funke, radiological control technician supervisor for Thermo Hanford, Inc. "Using the photo surveys provides another tool to help us minimize radiation exposures and prevent personnel contaminations, thus helping to meet our ALARA goals."

The use of digital cameras might just be the first of many technological tools adopted by the radiological protection crews. They are also investigating the use of small hand-held computers, similar to those used by Federal Express and UPS delivery agents, to update radiological survey maps. ♦



Photos such as this one at the 233-S Plutonium Concentration Facility being decommissioned by the ERC team are becoming part of pre-job planning.

**CARING ABOUT COMMUNITY:** Department of Energy employees Felix Miera, left, and Marla Marvin put soap, water and elbow grease to work on a Columbia Basin Dive and Rescue vehicle. About 150 DOE employees of the Richland Operations Office and the Office of River Protection put in four hours of hard work on May 24 as part of DOE's second annual "Day of Caring" at 12 different United Way agencies. Projects ranged from small construction jobs and building maintenance to chores for senior citizens — 15 projects in all, for 14 non-profit agencies. Many of the employees used their own equipment and dug into their own pockets for needed supplies.





# The Engineering Labs — an essential site service

Keith Witwer, FH

Imagine working in a place where you could take an engineering design concept and develop it into a proven piece of equipment. What if you needed a place to develop and test large robotics equipment in an environment nearly identical to the final use location?

Perhaps your project has taken possession of some unique equipment and you need to make sure it really works before you put it and your reputation (or your job) on the line. Or, for example, what if you wanted to actually see how well you could clean spent fuel canisters with a water jet — underwater?

These dynamic features are part of what the 300 Area Engineering Laboratories do on a daily basis.

“It’s an engineer’s dream here in the labs,” said Mike Schliebe, manager of the Engineering Labs for Fluor Hanford. “We’ve got the facilities and manpower to support just about any engineering project on site — and the beauty of it is that the project engineers can get right in the middle of it all and rub elbows with our engineers and technicians. It’s a win-win situation.”

## Hands-on solutions

Several success stories have originated in the Engineering Labs. For example, the recent successful pumping of high-level radioactive waste from Tank SY-101 to SY-102 was kept on schedule in part because of the lab’s quick efforts. Several pieces of equipment manufactured by off-site vendors had problems that were discovered after being accepted on site.

Engineering Labs personnel were able to proof-test the equipment, make design changes using the “development control” process, and re-test the equipment to verify that the modifications were successful. The development control process allows design changes to be made to a system, under the project design authority’s control, even after engineering drawings have been approved and released.

“We would have been hard-pressed to find another facility that could do such innovative, high-caliber work in such a short amount of time,” said Richard Raymond, project manager of the SY-101 Level Mitigation Project.



**Fluor Hanford employee Don Powell makes final adjustments to an underwater inspection camera in a test pool at the Engineering Labs’ 305 Facility.**

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### The KONAN success

Another recent example of the lab team springing into action for a high-level assist involved the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project's Fuel Retrieval System. In early 1996, SNF Project personnel began looking for a remotely operated system to transfer the spent fuel in the K Basins to the Multi-Canister Overpacks.

The SNF Project teamed up with the Engineering Labs and Schilling Robotics, an off-site vendor, to develop and test a robotic arm called CONAN. What resulted was a three-year partnership with the Engineering Labs, a new robotics system renamed KONAN, the training of Hanford operators in the labs' facilities and the deployment and recent acceptance of the fuel-handling system at the K Basins.

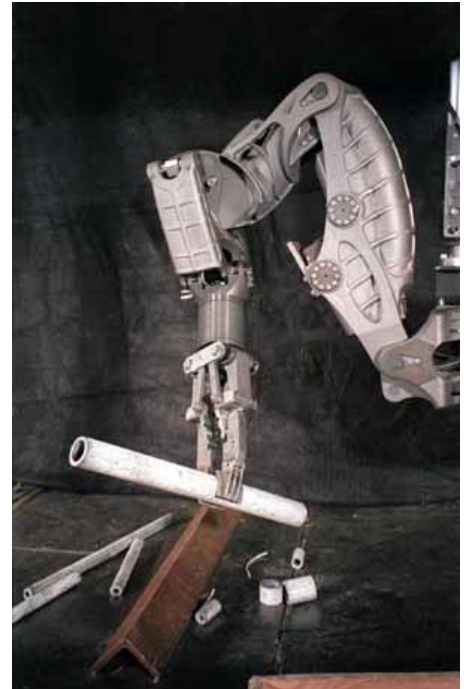
"We're all about reducing risk and improving the odds of success," said Schliebe. "That's what helps projects succeed."

### Modeling added

The recent addition of an engineering modeling team to the Engineering Labs provided a range of analysis capabilities. Dedicated computer hardware and software are available, as well as expertise in computational fluid dynamics, thermal hydraulics analysis, network flow analysis, and seismic and stress analysis.

The Engineering Labs are in the 305 and 306E Facilities in the 300 Area. With almost 40,000 square feet of high-bay floor space, a 30,000-gallon cold test pool, instrument shops, machining and welding shops and non-destructive examination capabilities, there is little that can't be done in the labs. "We've got some capabilities you just won't easily find anywhere else, on site or off site," Schliebe said.

Anyone interested in touring the facility or getting more information about initiating work can call Schliebe at 376-1472 or visit the labs' Web site at <http://www.rl.gov/englab/etlintra.htm>. ♦



In the Engineering Labs, K Basins operator Don Benson completes final checks for a demonstration of the KONAN robotic arm that will retrieve spent nuclear fuel from the basins.

# ERC team passes another major safety milestone

Steve Sautter, BHI

Imagine the Seattle Sonics or the Portland Trailblazers playing 406 NBA seasons without having to bench a player due to injury.

Or watching the Tri-City Americans play more than 18,180 Western Hockey League games, never seeing an injured player leave the game.

If these seemingly impossible feats occurred, they would just match the one million hours of work without a lost-time injury reached on Monday, May 22, by the Bechtel Hanford-led Environmental Restoration Contract team — a team that includes CH2M HILL Hanford, Inc. and Thermo Hanford.

“Reaching one million safe hours is a tribute to each employee,” said Mike Hughes, president of Bechtel Hanford. “This is evidence that ERC employees hold their safety and that of their fellow workers as a personal value.”

This is the fourth time the ERC team has reached the one-million-hour mark since it began work at Hanford in July 1994.

The ERC team performs difficult and challenging work. Maintaining surplus facilities, removing and disposing of radioactive materials, decommissioning and decontaminating facilities and moving tons of contaminated materials can present a variety of hazards.

According to Beth Bilson, assistant manager of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management for the Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office, workplace safety cannot be sacrificed for cleanup progress. “The cleanup work is crucial, but it must be done safely,” she said. “Safe work practices are good for everyone.”

Bilson also notes that the ERC team's good safety record means that DOE pays less in insurance premiums and worker compensation costs, which means more dollars spent directly on cleanup activities. “That is important,” Bilson added. “But the bottom line is that everyone returns home safely after each workday.” ♦



**Members of the Bechtel Hanford-led ERC team are framed by the hazards of their workplace — one of the many areas where they perform environmental restoration work safely each day.**



# Expanded Health Care Center nearing completion

Diane Turney, HEHF

If you drive by the 200 West Health Care Center, you'll see there is still a lot of work to be accomplished on the planned expansion of this facility before its intended opening this summer. Even so, Fluor Federal Services, which is providing construction management at the site, is up for the challenge, and the 200 West Health Care Center is scheduled to open its doors in July.

Last fall, the Hanford Environmental Health Foundation announced that services offered in the 200 West Health Care Center were going to be expanded. The same services that are offered at the Hanford Square I facility will be available at the newly remodeled 200 West Health Care Center.

Remodeling began on the 200 West and 300 Area Health Care Centers at their separate locations 30 miles apart. When the remodeling of the 300 Area Health Care facility was complete, the unit was moved to 200 West, and a third new trailer was delivered to the site May 8. The three units were joined and anchored. Water, sewer, electricity and HLAN access are being hooked up. A deck with a ramp for wheelchairs and gurneys will be attached to the center on the ambulance pad.

By relocating and connecting the former 300 Area Health Care Center trailer to the current 200 West Health Care Center, HEHF was able to save more than \$100,000 compared to the cost of new construction.

With the heavy construction phase wrapping up, HEHF plans to begin moving furniture to the new center within the next few weeks, while Fluor Federal Services construction forces prepare the x-ray room and install the equipment.

The opening of the 200 West Health Care Center will be coupled with the closure of the 200 East Health Care Center. The exact dates will be published in the *Hanford Reach* soon.

The 200 East Health Care Center is open for business Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Hanford Fire Department will continue to handle medical emergencies. Personnel requiring emergency medical assistance must call 9-1-1 from site telephones, or 373-3800 from cellular phones. After HEHF work hours, employees should report to the nearest fire station for evaluation for non-emergency medical treatment beyond what can be provided at the work site. ♦



From left, Sandi McInturff, Contracts and Environment of Care team coordinator for HEHF, Jim Kelly, project manager for Fluor Federal Services and Kevin Ekstrom of Maintenance Oversight for DynCorp Tri-Cities Services, discuss the 200 West Health Care Center project.

# Panels allocate distribution of United Way funds

Anyone who has raised money for United Way knows it takes a lot of work to bring in donations, but about 60 community volunteers are finding it is as much work, if not more, to distribute these donations. These volunteers, many of whom are Hanford employees (see sidebar), are in the middle of an intensive allocations process to determine how to distribute \$1.9 million in United Way contributions to programs that meet community needs. The amount to be allocated this year is 5 percent more than last year.

The Agency Relations Committee, which is divided into five allocation panels, is made up of a cross-section of Tri-Cities residents ranging in age from 21 to 75 and having a variety of professional, volunteer and family experiences. The volunteers are responsible for the wise and efficient spending of the United Way contributions by the agencies. They also monitor the agencies to ensure that they are managed effectively and can deliver the services to the community.

Chris Powers, vice president of Quality and Regulatory Affairs for Siemens Power Corporation, chairs the Agency Relations Committee. Powers is responsible for distributing funds to meet community needs and provide support services to the United Way participating agencies. To determine the distribution of funds, the committee uses an objective, comprehensive review process that can seem, at times, to be a stark contrast to the heartwarming services provided by the agencies.

## Hanford employees on the allocations panels:

- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory  
**Dave Briggs, Dave Watrous, Mike Berriochoa**
- Bechtel Hanford  
**Eric Koppitsch**
- CH2M HILL Hanford Group  
**Miki Mensinger, Cherri DeFigh-Price**
- DE&S Hanford  
**Sherry Kimball, Carol Farwick**
- DynCorp Tri-Cities Services  
**Pam Daly, Ann Olive**
- Department of Energy  
**June Ollero**
- Fluor Hanford  
**Ed Keeney, Janet Sliter, Marilyn Hodgson, Alicia Bittner, Katie Harris**
- Hanford Environmental Health Foundation  
**Joe Samuels, Kris Myers-Henning**
- Waste Management Technical Services  
**Juan Rodriguez**

## Agencies evaluated

Each participating agency must set targeted program outcomes for clients. Each allocation panel uses the same scoring checklist to evaluate how efficiently the agency delivers the services they are funded to provide.

Each agency also presents detailed operations and financial information. "The presentations by the agencies give a first-hand opportunity to see the recipients of the contributions and how much positive change it brings to their lives. It is very impressive and rewarding to meet these people," said Eric Koppitsch of Bechtel Hanford, Inc.

United Way director of Agency Relations Hazel Batchelor supports the volunteers' evaluation process and has a lot of respect of their work. "Panel volunteers are open-minded, detail-oriented and take their jobs seriously,"

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## Panels allocate distribution of United Way funds, cont.

she said. In addition to making objective evaluations, Batchelor said the recommendations developed by the volunteers have helped to improve the United Way agencies.

### Recommendations

By the end of June, the allocations panels will recommend to the Agency Relations Committee specific program funding amounts for each of the 38 programs offered by the 21 agencies. If approved, the recommendations will then be forwarded to the full board. The panel's recommendations involve the collective investment of about 1,800 hours from the volunteers in reviewing funding requests and visiting the agencies.

When the allocations process is completed, the Agency Relations Committee will continue its year-round responsibility of recommending funding for programs that meet emerging needs in the community, address emergencies or are designated by donors for specific services.

This year, based on new United Way financial policies, the committee can allocate up to \$50,000 in grants to meet special needs such as short-term emergency funding for non-United Way agencies or venture funding for new programs. The committee will also act on requests for \$92,000 of supplemental funding that has been set aside for emergency shortfalls. Last year, these types of funds were used to assist a United Way agency to meet an unexpected demand for the homework centers offered after school in various Tri-Cities locations. The committee also distributes funds that are designated by donors for specific service areas and recently provided \$71,200 to five local programs that address substance abuse and gang prevention. ♦



**PFP CAR SHOW COMING:** In this 1998 photo at the annual Plutonium Finishing Plant car show, a pampered '57 Chevy owned by DynCorp Tri-Cities Services' Hannon Hager is examined by Domingo Ramirez, left, and Rocky Simmons. This year's PFP car show and hamburger feed on June 21 will feature vintage and collector cars as well as other categories, and will raise money for the World War II Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The events are open to all site employees. To see the cars and support a good cause, visit the PFP parking lot in 200 West on Wednesday, June 21, at 11:30 a.m. To display your automobile, contact Don Sorenson at 373-5935, Diana Grando at 372-1448 or Faye Thomason at 373-2399.



# Harp named National DOE Facility Representative of the Year

Ben Harp of the Office of River Protection's Tank Farm Oversight Division was selected as 1999 DOE Facility Representative of the Year at the Facility Representative Annual Meeting held in Las Vegas, Nev. This marks the first time a facility representative from the Hanford Site has won the award since the program was implemented in the early 1990s.

Harp was assigned to the Tank Farm Oversight Division in 1998. He serves as tank farm facility representative for single-shell tank pumping operations. In 1999, approximately 500,000 gallons of waste were pumped from aging single-shell tanks into more environmentally sound double-shell tanks in preparation for waste feed and delivery to the proposed vitrification facilities.

According to Harp's manager and ORP Acting Manager of Operations Ami Sidpara, "Ben is setting a new standard for facility representative performance. He has a unique ability to understand the safety significance of an issue, properly coordinate with the contractor and various groups, and follow up to make sure actions are taken to resolve the issue. He is very persistent and well respected by both ORP and contractor staff."

Selection criteria for the National Department of Energy Facility Representative of the Year award included the value added by the facility representative's work, how closely the work was related to the office's mission, and the safety significance of the area or facility inspected. This award recognizes superior leadership, thorough knowledge of operations and safety standards, exceptional initiative in pursuing improvements and outstanding performance as a DOE facility representative.

Harp was selected as the recipient of this prestigious award by the DOE Offices of the Secretary, Defense Programs, Environmental Management, Science, and Nuclear Energy as well as 11 DOE operations offices. Two hundred facility representatives from 11 DOE offices were in contention for the national award.

ORP Manager Dick French said, "Ben is a very effective facility representative. I am proud of his accomplishments and feel confident that he will continue to contribute toward fulfilling ORP's mission of protecting the Columbia River."

In a letter to Harp, Energy Secretary Bill Richards wrote, "Your outstanding contributions to operational and safety oversight at the Hanford Tank Farms have been instrumental in keeping this important facility operating safely and efficiently." ♦



**Harp**



# Regular Features

## CALENDAR

### ASP and ASQ June 13 scholarship presentation

The presentation of \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors Melissa Dunn of Pasco High School and Omar Vaishnavi of Hanford High School will be made at a joint meeting of the local chapters of the Association for Quality and Participation and the American Society for Quality on June 13. Dunn and Vaishnavi will respond to the questions: "How do you recommend that quality tools and techniques be used in the educational system to improve the high school experience for students?" and "What specific tools would you recommend and why?" ASQ will present a short video and information about the Koalaty Kid program.

To be held at the Richland Shilo Inn, with networking at 5 p.m., buffet dinner at 6, and the presentations at 7, the cost of the evening is \$16 for members, \$19 for non-members or \$5 for the presentation only. To make reservations by June 8, call 375-4773 or send an e-mail message to [cburr@3-cities.com](mailto:cburr@3-cities.com). Check the Web site at <http://www.3-cities.com/~gates/AQPQuest.htm> for more information.

### Pasco park hosts Humane Society fund-raiser

The Benton-Franklin Humane Society will hold its annual "Paws in the Park" riverwalk fund-raiser on June 10 at Chiawana Park west of Pasco. The event is being sponsored by Team Battelle. Registration begins at 9 a.m. The participant fee is \$25 (which may be paid by the participant or from pledges collected by the participant). Proceeds go to the Benton-Franklin Humane Society. All participants receive a commemorative T-shirt. Prizes will be awarded to the participant raising the most pledge dollars, and to the oldest and youngest participants. Highlights include a dog and owner look-alike contest and vendor booths of pet-related exhibits. Visit the Web site at [www.bfhs.com](http://www.bfhs.com) to print the pledge form. Contact Brady Layman at 545-9303 or send an e-mail message to [humane@3-cities.com](mailto:humane@3-cities.com) for additional information.

### Community Connections Conference set for June 13

The third annual Community Connections Conference will be held June 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Workforce Training Center on the Columbia Basin College campus in Pasco. Explore the challenges and opportunities facing the Tri-Cities during this professionally facilitated, day-long session. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory scientist and engineering associate Jodi Amaya and senior communications specialist Andrea McMakin will be among the facilitators. The first conference in 1998 gave birth to what has become the current "Year of Our Children" community campaign. There is no charge to attend.

For more information, contact Katie O'Leary of CBC at 547-0511, extension 2299, or send an e-mail message to [koleary@cbc2.org](mailto:koleary@cbc2.org).

### Elvis to appear at NMA meeting

The Hanford Chapter of the National Management Association will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 14, at the Richland Best Western Tower Inn. Social hour begins at 5 p.m., dinner and a short business meeting begin at 5:45 p.m. "Elvis & the Extraordinaires" are the featured entertainment for the evening. Come and hear great tunes from the '50s, '60s, and '70s. Make your reservations for this exciting evening via the Web page at <http://www.nma1.org/chapters/395> or call Linnea Williams, 372-0285, by noon on Tuesday, June 13. The cost for guests is \$15.50 at the door.

### PNNL and Hanford Information Technology Expo 2000 slated June 14

The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Hanford Information Technology Expo will be held June 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Richland Best Western Tower Inn.

Exhibitors will display the latest LAN/WAN products; training and certification services; visual simulation, modeling and analysis; laptops; desktops; peripherals and servers; digital printers, copiers, scanners and facsimile; networking solutions, Web technologies; high-security shredders; office products; computer supplies and furniture; secure communications and other information technology products, services and solutions.

All personnel are encouraged to attend. There is no admission fee. Complimentary refreshments will be served. For more information call (800) 247-6353 or visit <http://www.fedpage.com/events>.

### Salmon bake proceeds benefit fire safety, law enforcement

The 13th annual salmon bake presented by the Tri-Cities Kiwanis Clubs and the Tri-County Public Fire Educators and co-sponsored by Fluor Federal Services will be held Saturday, June 17, at the Richland Red Lion Hotel from 5 to 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Fire Safety House and the fund for the purchase of law enforcement video cameras.

The winner of a raffle for a new car will be drawn at the salmon bake. The raffle is part of a fund-raiser sponsored by the Tri-Cities Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, Fluor Hanford, DynCorp Tri-Cities Services, Protection Technology Hanford and others to raise money for the video cameras for local law enforcement agencies. Tickets for the salmon bake are \$20 and are available from Tri-County Fire Departments, Kiwanis Club members, The Book Place in Richland, Fred Meyer in Richland, and the Richland Red Lion Hotel. ♦

# Regular Features



## C L A S S E S

### **Columbia Basin College Small Business Development Center offers:**

- **Making Money on the Side** – June 5, 6-9 p.m. Cost: \$15. Instructor: Blake Escudier.
- **Small Business Tax Accounting** – June 7, 6-10 p.m. Cost: \$35. Instructor: Don Smith, CPA.

The classes will be held at the Energy Northwest Multipurpose Facility at 3000 George Washington Way, Richland. To register or obtain more information, call Ritzy or Grace at 735-6222.

### **Protrain offers computer training including:**

- **Principles of Project Management Seminar** — June 23. Cost: \$49.
- **Excel 2000 Upgrade** — June 27. Covers the new features of Excel 2000 —working with Office Assistant; using new files, worksheets and formulas; formatting features and using Excel HTML files. Prerequisite: previous versions of Excel. Cost: \$99.
- **Word 2000 Upgrade** — June 30. Review new features of Word 2000 — use new document features; Word checking tools; enhanced table, graphic and Word HTML features; and macros. Cost: \$99.

*Enroll in both of the 2000 Upgrade programs in June for only \$179.*

- **Access Beginning** — June 20. Learn the basic database concepts, review the features of Access, work with objects and tables. Design table and property fields. Cost: \$89.
- **Access Intermediate** — June 21. Create charts, apply filters, define and apply relationships, and learn to use form features. Cost: \$89.
- **Access Advanced** — June 22. Learn how to use the application development features of the Access database application. Cost: \$99.

*Register for all three Access classes for only \$249.*

- **Project Management Techniques and Project 98** — July 17-19. Define project specification, implementation of a project, learn different elements of managing a project and become familiar with Microsoft Project 98 environment. Cost: \$759 per person, or register three or more people for \$699 each.

- **Introduction to Crystal Reports** — July 19. Create reports and formulas. Cost: \$215.

- **Advanced Crystal Reports** — July 20. Compose enhanced reports and learn the full use of the Crystal Reports program. Cost: \$215.

*Enroll in both July classes in the month of June for \$398.*

- **Word Macros, Merges, & Forms** — June 26. Learn the mail merge process to automate sending a form letter, use macros to automate your work and create your own computerized forms. Cost: \$99.

- **Word Working with Long Documents** — June 29. Create and manipulate long documents. Learn to customize your default settings and toolbars, place data in worksheets and charts and create tables and figures. Cost: \$99.

*Complete both June classes for \$179.*

- **Outlook 2000 Beginning** — June 23. Learn to work with Outlook basics, office assistant, messaging and features, respond to a voting message, and scheduling with calendar, Cost: \$89.
- **Access 2000 Beginning** — June 26. Learn to create and modify tables, queries, forms, reports and use filters. Cost: \$89.

Call 946-1123 for more information on Protrain courses. ♦



# Regular Features



**H**.anford **E**.mployee **R**.ecreation **O**.rganization

## **HERO POLICY FOR NON-SUFFICIENT FUNDS CHECKS**

— Because of recent incidences with NSF checks received by HERO, our future policy will be to pass associated NSF bank fees on to check issuers. HERO will no longer absorb those costs.

## **HANFORD RECREATION ASSOCIATION (HRA) DISCOUNTS**

— Check out the HRA listing weekly! New vendors are continually added. Located on the Hanford Intranet Web site. To reach the site, click on "Project Hanford Management Contractors," "General Information," "Hanford Information," and then "Hanford Recreation Discounts." A new Web page is under construction ...stand by for further instructions!

**400/600 AREA HERO REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED** — Interested? Have your manager's approval? Send e-mail to Donna Leech.

**DISCOUNTED POSSE TICKETS** — \$3 per person for general seating season home games, with the exception of play-off games. For an additional cost, the Posse ticket office will upgrade your general seating tickets to box seating. Contact Nancy Zeuge (X3-74), Marvene McChesney (T4-61) or Margaret Vasquez (G1-27).

**THE RICHLAND PLAYERS DISCOUNT TICKETS** — Discounts of \$1 for individual shows and \$4 for season tickets offered to all Hanford Recreation Association (HRA) cardholders. HRA cards must be presented at the box office to receive discounts.

**DISCOUNTED CARMIKE MOVIE TICKETS** — \$4.50 each with a limit of six per purchase. Restrictions will apply only to Sony DDS movies. A disclaimer for restricted movies will be noted in the *Tri-City Herald* Carmike announcements. Send checks made payable to "HERO" to Michelle Brown-Palmore (A7-51), Linda Sheehan (T4-40), Nancy Zeuge (X3-74), or Patti Boothe (T6-04).

**DISCOUNTED REGAL MOVIE TICKETS** — \$4 each with a limit of six per purchase. Send checks made payable to "HERO" to Michelle Brown-Palmore (A7-51), Linda Sheehan (T4-40), Nancy Zeuge (X3-56) or Patti Boothe (T6-04).

**DISCOUNTED MERCY MOVIE TICKETS** — \$5 each with a limit of six per purchase. Tickets will be honored at all Yakima Mercy theaters with no restrictions. Send checks made payable to "HERO" to Flu Garza (T4-01) or Nancy Zeuge (X3-74).

**SILVERWOOD THEME PARK** — Silverwood is now open on weekends only and soon will be in operation full-time. For a complete schedule breakdown, check out related information on the HERO Intranet Web site. Adult tickets are \$17.84 (normally \$25.19), youth (ages 3-7) and senior (age 65+) tickets are \$9.44 (normally \$16.79). Send checks made payable to "HERO" to Jan Dickinson (H2-23) or Laurie Franklin (R2-12). Personal checks for purchases in excess of \$250 will not be accepted. Send a cashier's check or money order for payments in excess of \$250. No cash, please!

**PENDLETON ROUND-UP TIME** — Sept. 16. Saddle up and head on down to the Pendleton Round-Up! Tickets are \$13 each with a limit of four per person on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't delay. Tickets will sell fast! Send checks made payable to "HERO" to Leann Messenger at T5-05.

**CABO SAN LUCAS** — Oct. 18-25. \$809 ppdo and \$767 ppto. Price includes round-trip air from Seattle, seven nights lodging at Posada Real San Lucas, hotel taxes, round-trip transfers and a guest welcoming party. The hotel is located on the beach in San Jose del Cabo. All rooms are air-conditioned and have an ocean view. A \$100 deposit is due by June 15. Send e-mail to Denise Prior.

**MEXICAN RIVIERA CRUISE** — Nov. 19-26. Spend a memorable Thanksgiving aboard Carnival's "Elation" sailing the Mexican Riviera. Rates for this delightful holiday cruise are \$1,025/ppdo for Category 4, inside cabins, and \$1,157/ppdo for Category 6, ocean-view cabins. Price includes round-trip airfare from Seattle, seven-night cruise, round-trip transfers from airport to pier, all meals and entertainment on board, a "welcome aboard" cocktail party and much, much more. Port charges are an additional \$139.75 pp. A \$300 pp deposit is required by June 20 to reserve the cabin category of your choice. Special third- and fourth-guest rates are available. Send e-mail to Donna Leech.

More information will appear in the *Reach* and on the Hanford Intranet Web site as details develop and additional trips are offered. ♦

## Regular Features



### B R A V O

#### SNF employee's safety slogan is a runner-up in *Safety Smart* contest

A safety slogan submitted by Angela N. Smith, a secretary in the Fluor Hanford Spent Nuclear Fuel Project, was chosen as a runner-up in a contest in *Safety Smart* magazine, a Canadian national magazine published in Penticton, B.C. The slogan, which goes with a picture of frayed electrical cords in an overloaded socket, is: "You have the power to pull the plug if something isn't safe." Smith submitted the slogan when the SNF Voluntary Protection Program steering committee asked project employees to participate in the contest. Smith, a native Tri-Citian who graduated from Kamiakin High School, has been with the SNF Project since Feb. 1. The project plans to make 20 posters of her slogan with the unsafe electrical plug picture, and post them around SNF Project facilities. *Safety Smart* magazine can be accessed at [www.safetysmart.com](http://www.safetysmart.com). ♦



Smith



### V A N P O O L S

Vanpool ads are run for two weeks. Ads must be resubmitted to run in subsequent issues of the *Hanford Reach*. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, 10 days prior to publication.

#### KENNEWICK

Looking for a vanpool or carpool (on 8x9 schedule) from 3000 S. Olympia in Kennewick to 2440 Stevens. Anyone interested in a carpool arrangement, or if any vans on this route have an opening, please call **Diane** at 373-5634. 5/30

#### PASCO

Riders wanted for 8x9 vanpool to 2750-E and 200W. Picks up at new Food Pavilion parking lot off Court Street and at Federal Building. Multiple drops in 200E, WSCF, PFP and will consider other 200W locations. Contact **Meldon** at 373-5115, **Derek** at 376-9018 or **Gary** at 373-1717. 5/30

#### RICHLAND

Van No. 64 has several openings. Leaves Stevens bus lot at 6:10 a.m. for 100K. Both 8x9 shifts. Will also drop at the CSB. Contact **Eva** at 373-1735 or **Bill** at 372-2881. 6/5

Vanpool to PFP needs two riders. Picks up along Wright and Birch Avenues and stops at Bethel Church parking lot on Jadwin Avenue. We try to limit our delivery point to PFP only. Call **John Faulkner** at 373-2286 or **Joe Russell** at 373-2441. 6/5 ♦